

Lives and Times

September 2007

Quarterly **NEWSLETTER** of the
Caswell County Historical Association, Incorporated
P.O. Box 278, Yanceyville, N.C. 27379

VOLUME XXX, Number Three
Sallie P. Anderson, Lauren Eakin
and Lib McPherson, Editors

Notes and Queries

by Sallie P. Anderson

Janice Pauk, 2228 Reunion Woods Trail, Apex, N.C. 27539 came to the Museum looking for material on William Lea. There were so many Williams Leas that we told her it would help if she could get a date of birth on her William. That day I brought her over to my house where she was thrilled to see the signature of its contractor-builder in his own handwriting. We had preserved the message found on an original house-board "Paul A. Haralson's House Oct. 25, 1836 Tuesday, W. Lea Jr. (?)." We added that "Leahurst" which was also built by a William Lea just before he built our house was still standing on the New Hope Methodist Ch. Rd., a little way off of the highway leading to Milton. I received a family tree a few days later in a print-out of 24 pages. It had on pg. 21 "Married to William Lea on January 1818 in Tazewell, Claiborne County, Tn. Marriage 1 WILLIAM LEA b. ABT. 1788 in Caswell County NC." There is a long attribution of sources in computerese at the bottom of the page. This gives no proof whatever of the date of birth of Major Lea's son William.

At this point we looked in our HERITAGE OF CASWELL COUNTY to ascertain the mother of William. There is not the slightest doubt about Major's first wife being a Herndon because, as least logically, all the lists give Herndon Lea s Major's oldest son. Then Caswell source give William, most searchers gathering that the mother was a Herndon cousin of the Leas back in Virginia where they came from. Katharine Kerr Kendall's HERITAGE account revealed that she was unaware that in the article on Thomas Slade, also in the HERITAGE at the top of Column 1 on pg. 482, he writes: "My daughter Betsey Lea very poorly and is crippled yet." Then in his will of 1798 e bequeaths to his "Granddaughter Nicey Lea" a substantial portion, which is duly documented in our records. The letter was written in 1783 and is preserved in the South Carolina archives. So, by all family tables it will be no surprise to learn that Nicey (Eunice, a name popular with the Leas) has a birth date of 1781 in the book JARNIGAN by Lee Leepers Powers, a copy of which is in Gunn Memorial Library in Yanceyville.

The next marriage of Major Lea is to the widow Sally Farley, left on the world with a small infant when her husband who has been running Makor's mill at Leasburg (vicinity) dies and Major comes to the rescue with a marriage bond dated 1790 of record in our County. She will accompany Major to Tennessee in 1797 when a "freshet" comes and washes Major's mill away. The curious may consult the Jarnigan book for an excellent account of the family shenanigans after leaving Leasburg. It has been speculated that Major may have married a Jarnigan and you may do your own arithmetic as to whether this stalwart Revolutionary War hero had or had not four or five wives, and who was William's mother. He died at the age of 101.

We had some ladies formerly from Pittsylvania County looking for notes of the Groom family. We directed them to all the Kendall Books in the Museum and took our own copy of the first Abstracts of Caswell County Deeds Book which is now out of print. We found several references but the family probably eventually moved back to Virginia.

Member Rick Frederick, a computer researcher, has contributed several items to our family files. It seems that Hairston material is in the vanguard of a movement to interest of Afro-Americans in family research. Rick sent examples of the outstanding research done on the Hairston Family, which once had a plantation with 1000 slaves on it at Danville. The place is still standing and I saw a piece of furniture that looked three centuries old in the old house on a tour. The graveyard in an adjacent space to the north of the century-plus old house were the only ones I ever saw that had the marble slabs put up on marble columns like so many picnic tables in the Vol. midst of the boxwoods. By the way, we all face the problem of craved inscriptions which last longer when the gravestone is erect but when it is as flat as a table top, believe it or not, the rain and other weather will wash away inscriptions faster according to how upright the slab is. Marble is a long way from being eternal.

Back to the Hairstons, the printouts tell the story of a family which apparently tried to right-the-wrong of slavery among its own individuals, the name of the white family being Settle. Immediately we think of the Governor, the Judge, the doctor, etc. but this Josiah married his slave, the mother of a number of children of mixed lineage. We do not have much demand for this type of genealogical information at the Museum but we should start and maintain a file for containing elements now being pursued on computers.

We need a family file where all genealogical material sent to sue can be kept. I have collected these bits and pieces over the years and my files are running over.



New Exhibit Highlights Gatewood's Life & Art

by Lauren Eakin

A new exhibit featuring the artwork of Maud Gatewood and artifacts highlighting her family's life in Yanceyville opened for the weekend of the Brightleaf Hoedown, September 29 and 30, at the Caswell County Historical Association's Richmond-Miles Museum.

Included among the displayed canvasses spanning Gatewood's half-decade career is the last - and unfinished - piece on which she worked: "Untitled (Kitchen)," a 50-by-50 inch work in acrylics. There are also samples of Gatewood's prints, charcoal and pen and ink drawings and works in graphite and oil.

Visitors will see her baby clothes, a photograph of Gatewood on her prized pony and the toy gun and holster she carried with her as a child while accompanying her sheriff father, as well as her high school yearbook, programs detailing her exhibits and magazine articles written about her.

Gatewood's globe is also on display, punctuated with orange push pins identifying the many places she visited in her travels around the world and blue push pins showing where she studied or taught.

Maud Gatewood was born in 1934 in the upstairs room of the Florance-Gatewood House where the Historical Association museum exhibit is now displayed. Having skipped two grades in school, she attended UNCG, then called Woman's College, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1954. She went on to earn a Master's degree from Ohio State the following year.

Gatewood was not only a prolific artist but was active in community affairs as well. In 1976, she was elected the first woman on the Caswell County board of commissioners.

She died at the age of 70 in 2004.



New Acquisitions and More

by Lib McPherson

Some exciting things have been happening in the association this year. Because of Maud Florance Gatewood's reputation as a premier Southern artist, and because her childhood home, the Graves-Florance-Gatewood House, is the location of our Richmond-Miles Museum, our volunteers hear frequent questions about her work. We had none of her work, but could share some family history. That changed in 2006 when heirs of the late Dorothy Yarborough Zimmerman donate 3 of Maud's early works to the museum. "Dot" Zimmerman was a life-long mentor, teacher, and confidante of Maud and was entrusted with some of Maud's most treasured works when Maud studied abroad on a Fulbright Scholarship.

Early this year we received word from Lee Farmer, Administrator of Maud's estate that we would received some of Maud's works from her personal collection along with other artifacts that will preserve her family history, particularly her father's record as Sheriff of Caswell County for 25 years. Fifteen of her works are included in this valuable contribution. Volunteers have been very busy preparing the room in which Maud was born to receive these works which have been hung by curators from Duke University's Art Museum. This permanent exhibit of Gatewood's work was opened to the public September 29.

Special thanks are due to President Karen Oestreicher, Vice-President Cy Vernon, and Board Member Cecil Page for their diligent work on this project.

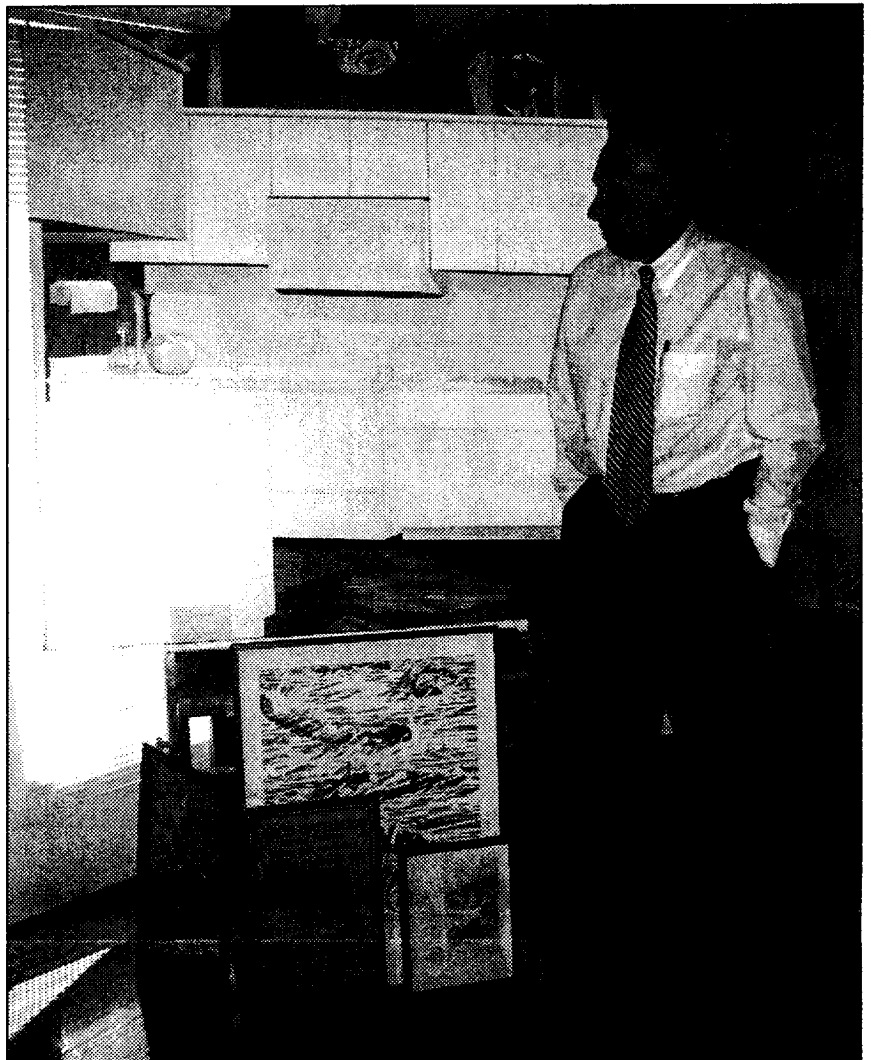
Board member Karen Avants continues to pursue significant historical records related to the county. In a previous newsletter you heard about her work transcribing records of the tobacco industry and slave trading as recorded in the ledgers of Yanceyville's Warehouseman-Slave Trader, Dr. Robinson. These valuable records were among the papers sold in the estate sale of his great-granddaughter Mary Kerr Motz. The collector who purchased them extracted the information he wanted and put them up for auction in late March. Because of Karen's commitment to the important of these records remaining in Caswell County, we expect this to happen. The UNC Southern and NC Collections covet these for their archives and offered to work with CCHA to establish the Caswell County Collection in a controlled environment in exchange for having this information available for graduate research. This is a priceless opportunity for it also offers us a cost-effective way to preserve other valuable ledgers that are in our collection. The Board is pursuing this. In order for this to happen we must have a major donor or grantor. If you are interested in being a partner in this venture, contact a CCHA Board member for assistance.

In March the Board conducting a brainstorming session the needs and priorities of the Association. The following priorities were set.

1. Establishing a sound financial base for maintaining the facilities and artifacts and operating the museum.
2. Upgrading the facilities and artifacts including winterizing the garage storage building for use as additional exhibit space.
3. Increasing membership, especially of local residents, to support the museum via volunt eerism and financial support for the ongoing operational costs.
4. Developing the museum resources as an educational resource to support and improve the teaching of local history in the area schools.

Committees are being established to address these issues. Grant applications are being developed as a first step. A membership campaign will be launched as soon as that committee is organized. The Gift Shop will be revamped and a number of modest changes will be made in existing exhibits.

The Yanceyville Rotary Club has asked CCHA to allow it to maintain the Poteat School, our one room school house which is located back of the Historic Courthouse. This is a very valuable contribution. A start has been made on refurbishing the jailer's quarters in the Old Jail, but more is needed. These quarters are being furnished as they might have been furnished in the half of last century (1900-1950). We have a bed, sewing machine, settle with matching chairs, some old dishes, and a rug from that period. We need more artifacts for this project.



Lee Farmer views some of the works of Maud Gatewood that are part of the permanent display that opened to the public September 29 at the Richmond-Miles Museum.

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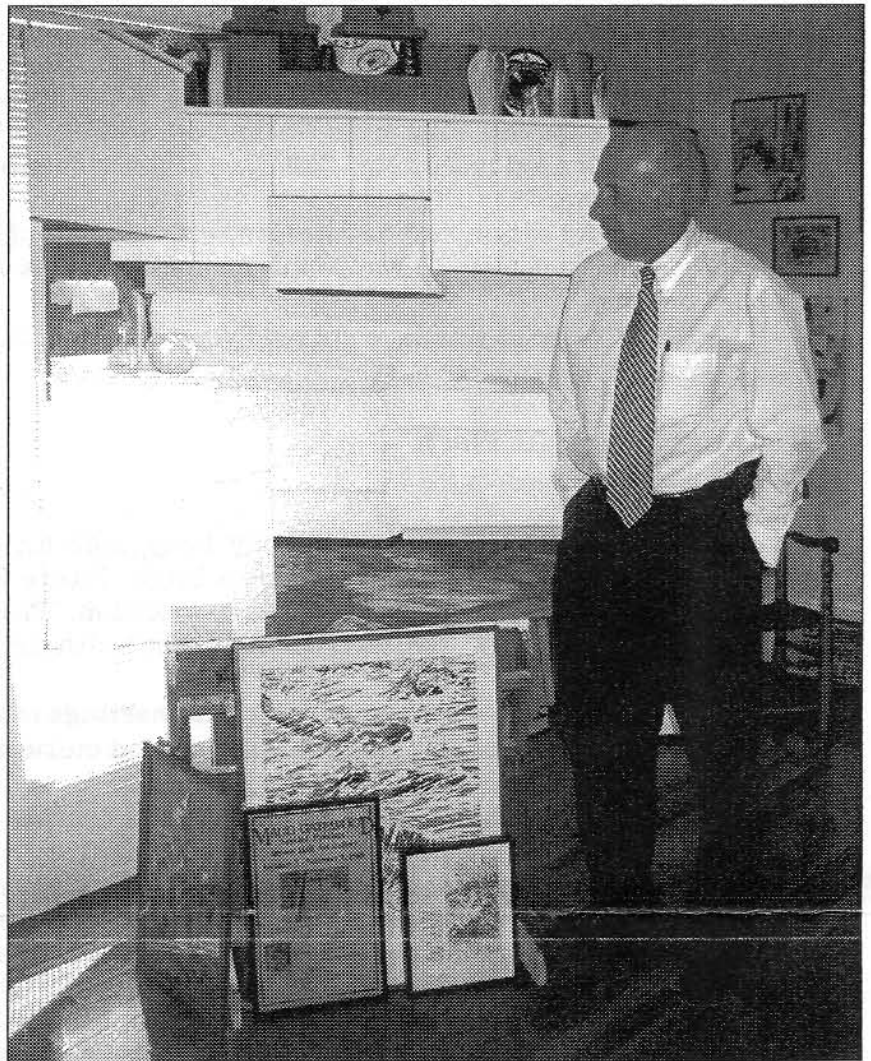
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Our faithful volunteers are keeping the museum open Wednesday-Friday from 12:00 to 4:00 pm. These folks include Janice Vernon, Mitzi Vernon, Helen Hooper, Karen Oestreicher, Clark Graves, Forrest Altman, Frances Murphy, Larry Foster, Will Woodard, Sallie Anderson, Benton Kay Thompson, June Gwynn, Katherine Watlington, and Roger Ward. Some new volunteers are getting oriented now. We need more help. Call Karen Oestreicher or Janice Vernon if you are willing to give a few hours each month.

Our faithful editor, Sallie Anderson, with the help of Lib McPherson and Lauren Eakin, is producing our newsletter. Karen Oestreicher and various volunteers "fold, stamp, and mail" the finished product.

REMINDER: IF you have not paid your dues for 2007, there will be a red dot on your label. Please remit. Your support is very important!!!

The Association At Work

by Lib McPherson, Co-editor

This has been an extraordinarily busy year for the association. The current Officers and Directors have formed a team to assure a bright future for the association. In January there was a special meeting to work on goals for the association. From that evening of brainstorming a strategic plan has been developed. Goals were set in accord with the mission of the historical association:

To preserve the material and cultural heritage of Caswell County and to enable this heritage to promote a bright economic and cultural history for Caswell County.

The goals encompass a broad range of areas including (1) the management and maintenance of the Richmond-Miles Museum located in the Graves-Florance-Gatewood house along with the outbuildings and log tobacco barn which is owned by the association, the Old Jail which is owned by the county and leased to the Historical Association (renewable as long as it used for promoting the mission of the association; and the Poteat School: (2) the operation of the museum - permanent and revolving exhibits, inventories and care of artifacts, security, recruiting and training docents; (3) fiscal management - business plans, accountability, budgeting, museum gift shop, fundraising, grants; (4) publications - newsletter, publishing; and (5) public relations.

Insurance coverage was reviewed and policies were revised before renewal to more accurately reflect our property values. We were all delighted to realize that, although we don't have much cash, our assets are valued at almost \$500,000 estimated conservatively. The donations from the Maud Gatewood Estate gave us a leap across that figure.

The economic situation in the county following the tobacco buyout and the exodus of the textile industry across the borders has created a climate not conducive to local fund raising. The budget woes of our county government and the results cuts eliminated a major source of operating revenue. This has led to much brainstorming to discover fundraising ideas that were doable with our small cadre of committed volunteers. In August we began monthly Texas Hold 'Em tournaments. These tournaments are very popular for civic fund raising in surrounding areas. They're very cost effective and this player who didn't know any vocabulary of the game had a great time and outlasted some experienced players every time. We're making a modest profit but expect it to grow. Members in this area are urged to come for an evening of fellowship and fun at the Caswell Pines Golf Club on Oct. 12, Nov. 9 and Dec. 14, 2007.

A grants committee has been established. One large grant application has been filed and others are in the planning stage. We need information about small private foundations whose missions are in sync with CCHA. HELP, PLEASE

Our members live all over the USA, so we have don't have a large pool of folks to do our nitty-gritty work.

We need the help of every member to secure additional members locally and from your families who share our Caswell heritage. We have a new membership committee who will begin a membership drive the weekend of the Bright leaf Hoedown (September 29-30). REMINDER: Dues for 2008 should be submitted any time. Use the renewal/new membership form in this newsletter.

The Board of Directors has recommended a Bylaws Change to set Dues for Individuals and Families at \$25. They were formerly \$20 and \$30. This will be voted on at the Quarterly Membership Meeting on Sunday, October 14.

Beginning September 29 we will charge admission to the museum. Admission fees: Adults who are not members \$5, members and children under 12 - FREE. Free admission is unlimited for members of a single household.

Plans are underway for a Capital Campaign. Our income sources are dues, gift shop sales, contributions, and grants. So without the support of those of you who love Caswell County and its history, our Board of Directors cannot operate the museum and offer the programs that we offer.

The Board of Directors has named the room in which Maud Gatewood was born the Gatewood Gallery in recognition of the valuable collection of artifacts received from her estate. This room will house a permanent exhibit of her art work and family artifacts.

Donation of Artifacts

Beginning with this issue of the newsletter, we will celebrate the receipt of new artifacts for the museum by listing those received since the last issue. Over the last few years we have received many gifts and loans of historical significance and monetary value. Unfortunately we have not systematically reported them to you although they are recorded in our Gift and Loan records.

Recent Gifts

From Sylvia Stallings Lowe - 3 books:

Plumes by Lawrence Stallings (Sylvia's father who wrote one of his best known works, *What Price Glory*, at Forest Home, the Poteat Family Home in Caswell County).

Youth and Culture by William L. Poteat (Sylvia's Grandfather whose historical marker is on Hwy. 62 north of Yanceyville)

William Louis Poteat, A Leader of the Progressive-Era South by Randal L. Hall (a biography of Dr. Poteat) Dr. Poteat was an early president of Wake Forest College.

From Hannah Roulstone, a descendant of Jacob Thomas whose ante-bellum home is near his Historical Marker on Hwy. 158 at Leasburg:

Books from the Thompson home/law office in Leasburg

Receipts that are dated from the 1800's

History of Leasburg Little Sister (Hannah's Great Aunt Ella) wrote

Ledgers from the 1800's that have lots of names in there---very interesting!

Jacob Thomas's colorful history as the Confederate spy who led the plan to burn down New York City in retaliation for the burning of Atlanta is a fascinating story.

From Lee Farmer:

His father Ryland Farmer's war memorabilia

Artifacts relating to Farmer Lake project

Political posters and other items from past elections

From Maud Gatewood's Estate (coordinated by estate administrator Lee Farmer and his wife Libby):

Artifacts from Sheriff Yancey Gatewood's service for 25 years as Caswell County Sheriff.

A valuable collection of Maud Gatewood's work - all framed and displayed in the new Gatewood Gallery (the room in which Maud was born)

Maud's awards, show brochures, her silver baby cup and more

The original land grant signed by Richard Caswell.

A shadow box with the dress and a photograph of a family member wearing the dress. (late 1880's)

From the late Jule Gwynn and his wife, Trish. (Descendant of Bartlett Yancey and last owner of the Bartlett Yancey family to home the family home on Hwy 158W - now Yancey House Restaurant):

Oil portrait of Bartlett Yancey - This portrait will be presented to the Historical Association at its Quarterly Membership Meeting on Sunday, October 14, at 2:30 pm in the Bason Fellowship Hall of the Yanceyville Presbyterian Church.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS PROPOSED CHANGE

The proposed changes have been adopted by the Board of Directors and will be presented for action by the membership at the October 14 quarterly membership meeting in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaw Article governing changes.

**CURRENT BYLAWS:
ARTICLE III - DUES**

Dues are payable annually by January 1 and are for the calendar year, i.e., from January 1 through December 31. Only members whose dues have been paid may be considered "Active".

Beginning with the calendar year 2007
Membership Categories and their applicable fee shall be as follows:

Individual	\$20	Family	\$30
Friend	\$50	Organization*	\$50
Corporation**	\$100	Steward	\$100-249
Preserver	\$250-499	Protector	\$500-999
Sponsor	\$1000+		

* Up to nine members ** 10 members or more

**PROPOSED CHANGE IN BYLAWS
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Preserver+	\$250-499	Protector+	\$500-999
Sponsor+			\$1000+

* Up to nine members ** 10 members or more
+ Steward, Preservers, Protectors, and Sponsors will be listed annual in the first newsletter after the end of the fiscal year unless donor requests to be anonymous.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW !

FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14 @ 2:30 PM

YANCEYVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 1 BLOCK FROM COURTSQUARE ON NORTH AVE.

PROGRAM AND RECEIPT OF GIFT

Historical Perspectives of Bartlett Yancey

**Presentation of Oil Portrait of the Honorable Bartlett Yancey - Mrs. Jule (Trish) Gwynn
On behalf of her late husband, Jule Gwynn, descendant of Bartlett Yancey
And last Yancey family owner of his home on US Hwy. 158W**

Mrs. Gwynn will be accompanied by Yancey families members who will celebrate the life of Bartlett Yancey and the presentation of this portrait to the Caswell County Historical Association. The portrait hung in the Gwynn home until recently, It was Jule Gwynn's often expressed direction that at his death, the portrait would be presented to the association. We welcome this significant contribution to our museum.

IMPORTANT BUSINESS

- Constitution and Bylaw Revision: See details of this elsewhere in this newsletter.
- Election of Directors for the Class of 2010: A Membership Secretary and also, additional directors are needed as well to fill vacancies for the Class of 2007 whose terms expire. If you are interested in serving as a Director of the Association, please contact a board member. The floor will be open for nominations at the time of the election.

**2008 Membership Application
CASWELL COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
NEEDS YOU AS A MEMBER**

CHERISH THE PAST AND CHART OUR FUTURE.

Be a shareholder in the preservation of Caswell County's rich and colorful Heritage. The Caswell County Historical Association's mission is to preserve the material and cultural heritage of our community. It is quite a history! Visitors to our county marvel at the beauty of the county and the stories of our people. In 1777, 230 years ago, Caswell was formed as the first county by the NC Legislature after the US Declaration of Independence. This heritage needs to be preserved to have a sense of who we are as Caswellians. We are widely recognized as "a gold mine waiting to be mined" in the realm of economic development; a significant player working for a viable and bright economic future.

Be a partner by becoming a member of the Caswell County Historical Association. Members have the satisfaction of knowing they have invested in a venture that is important for the citizens of this county. There are even more tangible benefits; (1) Quarterly Newsletters full of information about our past and our people, (2) Free admission to the Richmond-Miles Museum for all members living in the household, (3) 10% discount for all purchases in the museum gift shop, and coming very soon, (4) Members Only section on our website. www.ncccha.org. Membership affords many rewarding opportunities to be involved in activities with others who share your interest in preserving our heritage while enjoying the fellowship of shared goals.

DUES SCHEDULE

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	\$100	in the first newsletter after the end of
Steward+	\$100-249	the fiscal year unless donor requests
Preserver+	\$250-499	to be anonymous
Protector+	\$500-999	
Sponsor+	\$1000+	

Membership for Year 2008

New Renewal (Circle One)

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____ Work Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Fax _____ Email: _____

Here are my dues: \$ _____ I would like to volunteer _____

Contribution \$ _____ I would like to help with _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____ I can help (when?) _____

You will be contacted! You will receive a permanent membership card by mail.

**Caswell Historical Association
P O Box 278
Yanceyville, NC 27379**

WHO ARE OUR LEADERS?

Officers

President:

Karen Oestreicher
Karen@ncccha.org

Vice-President:

Cy Vernon

Secretary:

Karen Wade Avants

Membership Secretary

Vacancy

Treasurer

Mary Jo Henderson

Directors

Class of 2007:

Nathaniel Hall
Karen Moore
Leon Richmond

Class of 2008:

Frank Murphy
Robert Neal
Gordon Satterfield
Lib McPherson

Class of 2009:

Betty Gentry
Cecil Page
Faiger Blackwell



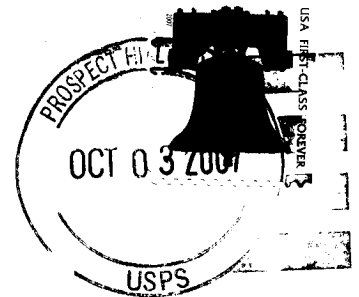
Maud Gatewood's Globe

Caswell County Historical Association

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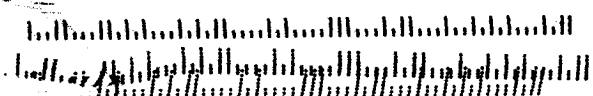
www.rootsweb.com/~ncccha/



MUSEUM HOURS

Wed. - Fri. 12 noon to 4 p.m.

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3395035176 C051



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Vacancy

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Maud Gatewood's Globe

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